

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph 62 with the following paragraph:

**[0062]** Streptavidin-alkaline phosphatase (500 ng) (SAP-Sigma-Aldrich) was spiked into 1 ml of pooled human plasma. The spiked plasma was incubated with ToyoPearl AF-Amino-650M beads (Tosoh BioSciences, Montgomeryville, PA) either with or without the ligand HPQFLS (SEQ ID NO: 1) (synthesized at Peptides International, Louisville, KY), a sequence known to bind streptavidin. The beads were allowed to incubate with spiked or unspiked plasma for 1 hr at room temperature, after which they were washed with HEPES buffer with 0.1% Tween-20, pH 7.2. Ligand-bearing beads were also incubated with saline alone as a control. The beads were distributed into wells of a 384-well plate with 6 HPQFLS (SEQ ID NO: 1) beads per well and 120  $\mu$ l of HEPES buffer containing 250 mM NaCl and 0.05% Tween-20 buffer. The beads were allowed to incubate for 30 hours at room temperature.